



The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

# Feed Line

Providing Amateur Radio News for the Triad



Julia Toth, Editor

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## This Month's Program

GARA will not hold its regular club meeting this month because of the upcoming Field Day, June 26-28. However, in lieu of our regular club meeting, I hope you all will be able to take advantage of an opportunity to meet with Dr. Marv Hoffman, WA4NC, the new NC ARRL Section Manager. He will meet with us on Zoom this Tuesday, June 23 from 6:00-7:00 PM for a PowerPoint presentation followed by a Q&A session.

Looking ahead, we are always seeking topics for our monthly meetings that are of interest to you. It is my goal to make our monthly club programs informational, instructional, and promote club activities. Conversely, we also need you to present your Ham radio related interests at one of our future monthly club meetings. It can be any topic of your choice and may be presented as a demonstration, hands-on workshop, interactive program, and/or lecture/discussion. Hopefully, we will be able to meet together again at Sarah's Kabob Shoppe and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Respectfully,  
Carl Fenske, KC4WGA

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### Join us for Field Day

Setup begins 3pm Friday, June 26th

Event begins 2pm Saturday, June 27th  
and runs through 2pm Sunday, June 28th

### Hagan-Stone Park

Group Campsite #1  
5920 Hagan-Stone Park Road  
Pleasant Garden, NC 27313

# GARA Meeting Minutes

**Started at 7:15pm on Monday, May 25 on W4GSO 145.15MHz repeater**

- Board Check-Ins
- Board Reports
  - Scott, ND4L
  - Carl, KC4WGA
  - David, AC4A
  - Matt, KX4GG
  - Jesse, K4AX
- General Check-Ins
  - W1GY, Bill
  - K4HC, Chris
  - KQ3H, Tommie
  - N2LGH, Dan
  - W4OVT, Marc
  - KX4KT, Keith
  - KN4YFL, Charlie
  - N4CNX, John
  - K5LCY, Luke
- Presentation on FT8 Basics by Scott Toth, ND4L

**Ended at 8:50pm**

**A video recording of the meeting is available here: <https://youtu.be/acBTSSCy2jU>**

## The Greensboro Amateur Radio Association

**President** Scott Toth ND4L | **Vice President** Carl Fenske KC4WGA | **Treasurer** Dave McLin AC4A | **Secretary** Yakov Rokhlin KN4RBN  
**Financial Committee Chair** John Strandberg W4DX | **Engineering Chair** Matt Trull KX4GG | **Operations Chair** Open  
**Members-at-Large** Drew Paschal WD4IHY and Jesse Lindley K4AX  
**Appointed Positions: Public Information Officer/Newsletter Editor** Julia Toth

*The Feed Line* is ©2020 by the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association and published monthly. Our address is P.O. Box 39829, Greensboro, NC 27438. The purpose of the newsletter is to provide the club and prospective members information about the club and amateur radio in general. Material and information should reach the editor by the first Friday of the month for the next edition of the newsletter. Opinions expressed in "The Feed Line" do not necessarily represent the views of the officers, directors, editor or members of the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association. Material may be reproduced, provided proper credit is given to GARA.

# GARA Board Meeting Minutes

The board did not meet in June.

## Field Day



Field Day 2020 starts this coming weekend (June 26-28). We will operate from Hagan-Stone park, group campsite 1 (same as last year). We will operate at least 1 station, and possibly an additional digital station if there is enough interest. Setup will start 3 PM Friday, June 26 and will be completed on Saturday morning. The operating period will start 2 PM Saturday and end at 2 PM Sunday, followed immediately by teardown. Several of us plan to camp out Friday and Saturday nights.

Because of COVID-19, we plan to take some basic precautions. They include:

- We will operate under a canopy instead of an enclosed tent.
- The logging computer will have a separate keyboard and screen.
- Operators should wear a mask while operating. The club will supply the masks.
- Equipment (radio and logging computer keyboard) should be wiped down with disinfectant wipes when changing operators. The club will supply the wipes.
- If you plan to operate, bring a headset with microphone for your own use. Here is a link to an inexpensive headset if you don't already have one:  
  
<https://www.ebay.com/itm/Black-Hands-Free-Overhead-VOIP-Skype-Headset-With-Microphone-3-5mm-Audio-Speaker/303205775573?hash%3Ditem469878f8d5:g:eUAAAOSwbrldFstW>
- While visiting the event, please wear a mask and maintain social distancing as much as possible.

For more info about ARRL's Field Day, please visit <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>

***From ARRL...***

**Youth on the Air in the Americas Announces  
At-Home Bonus Summer Activities**

<http://www.arrl.org/news/youth-on-the-air-in-the-americas-announces-at-home-bonus-summer-activities>



**Youth on the Air**

**6/16/2020**

Youth on the Air in the Americas is planning additional home-based activities for this summer, due to the postponement of its inaugural summer camp at the National Voice of America Museum of Broadcasting in West Chester Township, Ohio. Virtual YOTA Day will take place on Wednesday, June 24. Activities will include a series of youth-led forums and some competitions that can be done from home – even without a radio. Virtual YOTA Day

begins at 1800 UTC on June 24 and continues until 2400 UTC.

Those who had been selected to attend YOTA camp 2020 will be able to meet on Zoom for a day of learning and fun, plus a chance to win prizes, but anyone interested will be able to get in on Virtual YOTA Day via the official Youth on the Air YouTube channel and play along at home. Some activities will include learning how to track down the location of a transmitter without leaving your chair, sharpening contesting skills, and more.

During the week of June 21–26, when the camp was to take place, special event station W8Y will be on the air on all bands and modes. Those selected to attend YOTA Camp 2020 will take turns operating as W8Y throughout the week from the station of their own choosing. Campers should contact Marty Sullaway, NN1C, to be added to the schedule.

Youth on the Air will operate Field Day using a remote station in southwestern Ohio. Logging will be done by remote desktop. Campers can sign up at [YouthOnTheAir.org](https://YouthOnTheAir.org) for a time slot on the remote station provided by Jay Slough, K4ZLE. Contact Chris Brault, KD8YVJ, with questions.

Youth on the Air will be a club choice for Field Day score submissions. Participating operators age 25 or younger choosing to operate Field Day from a home station can contribute their scores to an aggregate club score for this year only. Enter “Youth on the Air” as the club name on the Field Day entry.

More information about YOTA in the Americas can be found at [YouthOnTheAir.org](https://YouthOnTheAir.org) and on YOTAregion2 on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube.

## From the President's Shack

I really look forward to Field Day every year. I think I have good feelings about it because of the amount I learned at the event early on and because of how helpful people were to me. I've attended Field Day events each year since I originally got my license and have watched new amateurs learn how to operate in the HF bands, have observed accomplished operators discuss antennas, radios, and operating procedures with both young and old, and have experienced the teamwork and camaraderie that comes with having a common goal.

Everyone knows how challenging this year has been already and it doesn't seem to be getting any easier. Planning for Field Day has been especially difficult because of the restrictions that have been in place due to COVID-19, but the board knew that it was imperative to find a way to hold an operating event even if it meant that everyone would be at home. Thankfully that won't be the case, but we also understand that we're not past all of the dangers associated with this disease. There are a lot of opinions about the response to the Coronavirus, but in my estimation, we should strive to show as much kindness to each other as possible in order to make this event accessible to as many as want to participate. This is why the board has set the requirements regarding social distancing, wearing face masks while operating, disinfecting equipment, etc.- because we want everyone to feel comfortable and confident joining in the activities. I know that some of you are not ready to join us yet and I have the utmost respect for that, but even so, I hope that you will find some time to get on the air and will work W4GSO to support your club.

I think that's part of the beauty of an event like Field Day. Despite the threat of disease, social unrest, or murder hornets, we can carefully set these things aside for a weekend and coalesce around an activity that, by its nature, brings together people from all over our nation and from around the world. I hope the unity, goodwill and kindness borne from this experience will flow over to all aspects of our amateur radio lives on our repeaters, in how we communicate on the low HF bands, and in all other aspects of our interactions with our fellow hams. I am personally looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible this coming weekend and hope you have an excellent Field Day 2020.

73,  
Scott Toth, ND4L  
GARA President

***For ARRL News Regarding COVID-19***

Please visit [www.arrrl.org/coronavirus](http://www.arrrl.org/coronavirus) or [www.arrrl.org/COVID-19](http://www.arrrl.org/COVID-19)

# Engineering Report

The output power on the UHF repeater is currently down as we had to switch back to the internal PA. It appears that the dedicated amplifier for this repeater has failed and will need to be RMA'd. In the meantime you may notice reduced coverage for this repeater. You may have noticed that many of the local nets have moved back to the VHF (145.15) repeater. This is due to technical difficulties with the 145.25 repeater that have made it very challenging to use it for any structured communications like the local nets. We welcome those users to our repeater and hope that the increased power output from the recently installed VHF amplifier will make this a smooth transition for those who were using the 145.25 repeater.

73,  
Matt Trull KX4GG

## GARA Merchandise



Interested in buying GARA-themed merchandise?

Visit the GARA shop at:

<https://shop.spreadshirt.com/gara>

A portion of every sale is donated back to the club.



**Support  
Greensboro Amateur  
Radio Association.**

When you shop at **smile.amazon.com**,  
Amazon donates.

[Go to smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

**amazon**smile

# Treasurer's Report

Our account balances as of the end of May 2020 are:

## Checking:

Beginning Balance:	\$939.51	
Deposits:	\$17.81	Amazon Smile Disbursement
Withdrawals:	-\$200.00	Liability Insurance Premium
	-\$104.98	Repeater Internet Connection Payment
	-\$15.00	Bank Maintenance Fee
Ending Balance:	<u>\$637.64</u>	

## Money Market:

Beginning Balance:	\$9047.15	
Deposits:	\$0.08	Interest
Withdrawals:	\$0.00	
Ending Balance:	<u>\$9047.23</u>	

## PayPal:

Beginning Balance:	\$3818.32	
Deposits:	\$0	
Withdrawals:	-\$256.73	New Repeater Amp
Ending Balance:	<u>\$3561.59</u>	

**Totals:** **\$13,246.46**

There were some issues in getting our equipment insurance application submitted, but they have been resolved and our equipment insurance has been renewed. The premium check has not yet cleared, but it should be included in the June bank statement.

Dave  
AC4A

## Special Note: The Radio Amateur's Code

<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-code>

Given the polarizing events taking place, we ask everyone to be cognizant of how they represent the ham radio community when on the air, especially when using local repeaters. Conversations that may be taking place between a couple of folks, or a small group of individuals, are broadcast for anyone to hear. There are a lot of people who listen much more than they transmit. New hams and those working towards being licensed are often listening in, anxious to make a QSO, but also nervous and trying to gauge the climate and etiquette of those conversations. We can all agree that preserving the rights we are granted as amateur radio operators depends on sustaining the hobby in a healthy way, and that means fostering an environment that is welcoming to anyone and everyone. The Radio Amateur's Code was written in 1928 and the first line speaks directly to this.

"The Radio Amateur is CONSIDERATE...He/[She] never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others."

## GARA Monthly Program Survey



**Let Us Know  
What You  
Think!**

In an effort to serve our membership better, we would like to get your input into which presentations and programs you'd like to see. Please complete the form at <https://www.w4gso.org/news/gara-monthly-program-survey/> to let us know!

## For Sale!

GARA is selling gear that was donated by local hams. All proceeds go into the club's general account to be used for club activities. Click the link below to see all of the gear we have for sale! [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h8foiMA6fguciv-NBI4qXOIAmtoHNIbD/view?usp=drive\\_web](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1h8foiMA6fguciv-NBI4qXOIAmtoHNIbD/view?usp=drive_web)



## From ARRL...

### Russian-Ukrainian Radio War Continues

<http://www.arrl.org/news/russian-ukrainian-radio-war-continues>



**6/16/2020**

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 Monitoring System (IARUMS) May newsletter reports the Russian-Ukrainian radio war, which had been raging for years at 7055 kHz LSB (as well as on 7050 or 7060 kHz) reached a new escalation level in May.

“Almost every day, one heard the most massive mutual insults and aggressive, provocative hate rap music in Russian,” newsletter editor and IARUMS Region 1 Coordinator Peter Jost, HB9CET, said in the May edition. “Furthermore, from time to time, we saw insulting symbols (e.g., skulls) in the waterfall.”

Jost said it's believed the perpetrators are located in the border region of eastern Ukraine with the Russian Federation.

In May, a digital jammer appeared, with interference temporarily up to about 12 – 15 kHz. “[IARUMS] has no means to stop this radio war,” Jost wrote. “Only national authorities can do something with international complaints.” The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (DARC) intruder watch has submitted an official report on the interference to BNetzA, the German telecommunications regulator, the newsletter reported.

### ARRL Announces Updated Features on Contest Portal

<http://www.arrl.org/news/arrl-announces-updated-features-on-contest-portal>

**6/11/2020**

The much-anticipated updated features at the ARRL Contest portal are here! These web-based tools provide an updated interface to contest data for all ARRL-sponsored contest events, including:



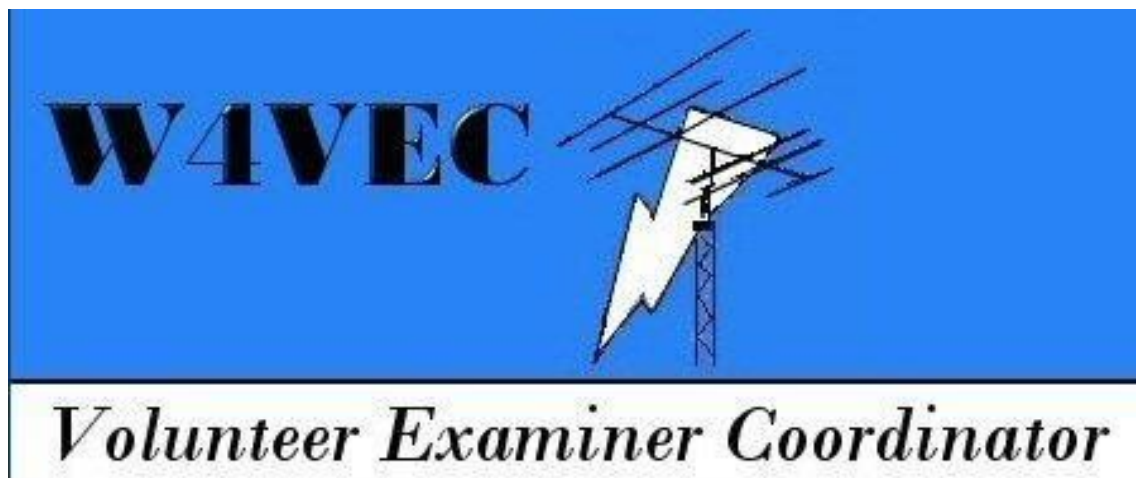
- Contest Score viewer, including a searchable call history and records
- Submitted logs and raw scores for recent events
- Downloadable Comma Separated Values (CSV) files of contest results
- Club Competition scores, including total and individual scores
- Soapbox page for posting and viewing contest stories, photos, other media
- Downloadable, printable certificates suitable for framing
- Log Checking Reports (LCRs)
- Access to public logs
- Contest results articles and line scores

ARRL Contest portal users will notice other minor changes to the site, as some functions have been moved on the page for better functionality and flow. The ARRL Contest portal is now a one-stop shop for all ARRL-sponsored contests. From the site, you can access everything, from the start time of a contest to your post-event certificate of accomplishment. All ARRL contest information is now conveniently located in one centralized location.

Contact the Contest Program Manager for more information on the updated features and on ARRL contests in general.

# VE Testing

When you're ready to take your exam, the local volunteer examiner organization, W4VEC, offers local (Greensboro and High Point) testing every month most months on Saturday mornings. See this link for detailed schedules and information: <http://www.w4vec.org/ar.html>



In Greensboro, exams are held the 2nd Saturday of each month (except March) at Hinshaw United Methodist Church, 4501 Gate City Blvd (High Point Road) Greensboro, NC at 9:00 AM. For more information contact: David Macchiarolo AJ4TF at [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net), 336-420-9424. Walk-ins allowed; but pre-registration is preferred.

In High Point, exams are held on the last Saturday of the month (except June, November, and December) at Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church, 301 Hickory Chapel Road, High Point, NC, at 10:00am. Pre-registration is required at least 3 days before the exam date. For more information contact: David Macchiarolo AJ4TF at [aj4tf@arrl.net](mailto:aj4tf@arrl.net), 336-420-9424.

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The next session in Greensboro will be held on July 11th at Hinshaw United Methodist Church but space is very limited. E-mail David for reservations, but continue to check the W4VEC website for updates. <http://www.w4vec.org>

# New Hams

## Greensboro, June 2020



Davis, James C.  
W4CFO  
Pittsboro, NC  
Earned Extra

Graves, Andrew E.  
KK4WYR  
Oviedo, FL  
Earned Extra

Hill, Anthony G.  
Lexington, NC  
Earned General

Jeffries, Brad P.  
KN4ODM  
Browns Summit, NC  
Earned Extra

Phelps, Allen W.  
KN4POG  
Jamestown, NC  
Earned Extra

Stacy, Jeffrey A.  
KA4JAS  
Greensboro, NC  
Earned General

Tigue, Nathan A.  
Greensboro, NC  
Earned Technician

# Calendar of Events

Please check Hamfest websites for possible cancellations.

The Firecracker Hamfest in Salisbury, The 47th Annual Cary Mid-Summer Swapfest, Roanoke HamFun 2020, and the Shelby Hamfest have all been cancelled.

GARA Meetings will be held on the repeater until further notice.

Info about ARRL contests can be found on <http://www.arrl.org/contest-calendar>

June 26-28	GARA Field Day ( 2pm on 26th until 5pm on 28th)
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day ( <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a> )
July 11	VE Testing, Greensboro, Hinshaw Memorial United Methodist Church
July 11-12	IARU HF World Championship ( <a href="http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship">http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship</a> )
July 25	VE Testing, High Point, Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church
July 27	GARA General Meeting
Aug. 1-2	222 MHz and Up Distance Contest
Aug. 8	VE Testing, Greensboro, Hinshaw Memorial United Methodist Church
Aug. 8	22nd Annual Cape Fear Amateur Radio Swapfest, Fayetteville ( <a href="http://www.cfarsnc.org">http://www.cfarsnc.org</a> )
Aug. 15-16	10 GHz & Up – Round 1 Contest
Aug. 16	Rookie Roundup – RTTY Contest
Aug. 24	GARA General Meeting
Aug. 29	VE Testing, High Point, Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church
Sept. 12	VE Testing, Greensboro, Hinshaw Memorial United Methodist Church
Sept. 12-13	EME - 2.3 GHz & Up Contest
Sept. 12-14	September VHF Contest
Sept. 19-20	10 GHz & Up - Round 2
Sept. 26	VE Testing, High Point, Hickory Chapel Wesleyan Church

The purpose of this calendar is to provide information on events in and around our area that might be of interest to our readers. As you might expect, there are many more events (public service, hamfests, flea markets, etc.) taking place in North Carolina and around the Greater Greensboro Area. If you know of an event that would be of interest to our readers, please contact the Board of Directors at [info@w4gso.org](mailto:info@w4gso.org).

## FEEDLINE

**FOURTH MONDAY** – at 6:30 p.m., the Greensboro Amateur Radio Association has a regular monthly meeting at Sarah's Kabob Shop, 5340 W. Market., Greensboro, NC 27409. Please plan to gather at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. The meeting is scheduled to start at 7:15 p.m. (Due to COVID-19, moved to the repeater until further notice)

### CLUB NETS:

**SUNDAYS** – at 8:30 p.m., the GARA Sunday evening net. This features a rag chew followed by News and Information including Amateur Radio Newsline. It is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater. Scott Toth, ND4L is always looking for net controls.

**TUESDAYS** – at 8:30 p.m. The Triad SkyWarn Net meets on the 147.225, K4ITL repeater, no tone required

**TUESDAYS** – at 9 p.m., the D-Star Net meets on 442.8625 (W4GSO B and Reflector 54C)

**WEDNESDAYS** – at 8:45 p.m., The Guilford Amateur Society Rag Chew Net holds their weekly net on the 145.250 W4GG repeater. Jim Hightower, W4JLH is the net control.

**THURSDAYS** – at 9 p.m., The Guilford County ARES Net meets on the 145.150 repeater (100 Hz tone)

### OTHER ACTIVITIES:

**FIRST MONDAY** – The Guilford County ARES monthly meeting is held at 1002 Meadowood St. off W. Wendover Ave, in the EMS building, beginning at 7 p.m.

**THIRD MONDAY** – The Guilford Amateur Society is currently looking for a new venue for their meetings. When found, that information will be posted here.

**THURSDAY** – at 11:15 a.m., Greensboro Hams get together for lunch. Thursday lunch group is meeting at the K&W Cafeteria, 300 Forum VI Mall at Friendly Shopping Center. Talk-in is on the 145.150, W4GSO repeater with a 100 Hz tone.

**EVERY FRIDAY** – at 8 p.m. (approximately) Greensboro Hams get together for coffee at Starbucks at Edney Ridge Rd.

## The GSO W4VEC Testing Schedule 2020

**July 11 in Greensboro**

**July 25 in High Point**

**Check the W4VEC website  
for updates.**

<http://www.w4vec.org>

## GARA REPEATERS

145.150 MHz - offset, 100 Hz tone, FM and Fusion

442.8625 MHz + offset, D-Star and Fusion



**Greensboro Amateur Radio Association**

P.O. Box 39829

Greensboro, NC 27438

[www.w4gso.org](http://www.w4gso.org)

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

***The Official Publication of GARA***